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MAY 19, 2023 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 11

YOUR PURCHASE BENEFITS THE VENDORS.  
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

Meet my Pet Pal: Jeremy and Baby Girl. **Page 6**



MEET YOUR  
VENDOR:  
**MARKONA  
LOVE**  
**PAGE 3**

# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



**Fired organizer reinstated  
May 15 — What's next for  
Huron Valley Coalition of  
Starbucks Workers United?  
page 7.**

Hannah Whitbeck outside of Main and Liberty Starbucks the day she was illegally fired in April 2022.

THIS PAPER WAS BOUGHT FROM



@groundcovernews, include vendor name and vendor #



from the **DIRECTOR's DESK**



The defrosting of Washtenaw County signals change in the rest of the community. Obvious examples include the departure of college students, the week-end street closures and explosion of spring flowers and green leaves.

The seasonal shift can be observed in the homeless community, too. Some folks leave the area once the winter shelters close. Many have no option but to camp for shelter.

The warm spring weather signals an increase in street life — for both the

housed and unhoused. Because of this and more, we typically have an uptick in new vendors during May and June. This year has been no exception.

During the "Sales 101" portion of the New Vendor Orientation, we watch a video from the International Network of Street Papers that is filled with sales tips for new vendors. One of the most important lessons in it is "[selling street papers] is not a get-rich-quick thing."

Successfully selling Groundcover News involves investing time into relationships that is a disadvantage to new vendors, no matter how excited they are to build up a clientele. Going out to sell for the first, second, third and fourth times isn't the easiest task — especially in a new spot.

Look out for the new vendors pictured to the right when you're out and about in Ann Arbor or Ypsilanti. If you see them, stop, say hello and buy a paper if you can. It makes a difference every time, but especially when they're getting started!



**Shawn Sweeney,**  
**(returning) Vendor #193**



**Sarah Feltman,**  
**Vendor #596**



**Frantz Francois, Vendor #599**



**Roberto Caballero,**  
**(returning) Vendor #347**



**Michelle Oliphant,**  
**Vendor #598**



**Dan Wilcox, Vendor #592**

GROUNDCOVER NEWS

CREATING **OPPORTUNITY** AND A **VOICE** FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHILE TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed.

Vendors purchase each copy of our regular editions of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale.

Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. Our paper is a proud member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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1/6	\$145.00	\$200.00	5 X 4	Six Months/Twelve Issues: <b>25%</b> off
1/4	\$200.00	\$265.00	5 X 6.25	Full Year/Twenty-four Issues: <b>35%</b> off
1/2	\$375.00	\$500.00	5 X 13 or 10.25 X 6.5	Only run for two weeks/one issue: <b>40%</b> off
full page	\$650.00	\$900.00	10.25 X 13	Additional <b>20%</b> discount for money saving coupons

MEET YOUR VENDOR



**Markona Love,**  
**vendor No. 590**

**In one sentence, who are you?**  
A beautiful light about to be a Super Nova.

**Where do you usually sell Groundcover News?** I am a fixture at Argus Farm Stop (coffee shop) at 1200 Packard, Ann Arbor.

**When and why did you start selling Groundcover ?** To promote GCN and my writing. Started Feb or Mar?

**What words do you live by?**  
Einstein: (paraphrased) "You can't change the problems of today with the same way of thinking that got us here."

**What's the best way to start the day?** Birds singing.

**What do you wish you knew more about?** EVERYTHING.

**What motivates you to work hard selling Groundcover News?**  
Giving the disparaged and the disenfranchised a voice.

**What was your first job?** 9 yrs old. Construction plumber's assistant.

**What is your superpower?**  
Empathy and resilience.

**If you had a warning label, what would it be?** If you don't want the Markona Show, don't turn me on.

**If you could do anything for a day, what would it be?** Produce and write lyrics for a band (music).

**What's the best thing about selling Groundcover News?** Meeting people, having thought-provoking conversations and spreading the awareness through the paper.

**What would be the first thing you do if you won the lottery?** Buy property, and start a multi economic Eco Village.

Recovery happens!

My name is Beverly B. I am 44 years old. I'm homeless because of my drinking. I lost everything — my home, my dignity and my job. I am living at a shelter as a woman, and made it to the 4th floor after two years living on the street. I am grateful for the shelter; there are not a lot of programs for women and children.

The shelter is understaffed and what staff is there seems tired. I think they need more protection. And better food — by the time it gets there it is three days old. Like I said, I am very grateful to have a roof over my head. I started working at Groundcover less than a year ago. It has the best programs. I



**BEVERLY BOSS**  
**Groundcover vendor No. 583**

have a safe place to eat, get coffee and food; there's lots of learning, movie nights with popcorn, and Lindsay and Glenn are the best. I don't know what I would do if Groundcover and the shelter weren't here.

I am working on getting a home. I can make money and

get support through Groundcover to pay court fines and fees and the cost of food. The shelter is working with Groundcover and working on getting my voucher for a house. There is no hotel that I make enough money for. My self-esteem went up because I am making money, not relying on a man to help. The community is awesome and my life is getting better everyday.

I am in rehab working on myself everyday. The staff has been awesome. I can't wait to go back to Groundcover. Recovery happens!

Love, Beverly.

Home spa

There are many different ways to treat and pamper yourself. Treating and pampering yourself does not have to cost you money. You can treat and pamper yourself at home and enjoy yourself at home. Home is the easiest and most relaxing place to treat and pamper yourself.

A home spa can be in the living room or the kitchen. I like to use my living room because it is the biggest room in my house. My living room has comfortable chairs and I like to turn on a bright light.

When you get tired at home you can just rest and put on some soft relaxing music or whatever music you like. I like to put on classical or folk music on low volume. You can read a book at home and relax. You can also



**DENISE SHEARER**  
**Groundcover vendor No. 485**

listen to a book at home and relax.

You can fix your hair the way you want. You can wash and condition your hair. I like to braid my hair after I brush it. I use regular scrunches to make up my hair.

You can also give yourself a manicure and a pedicure. I like to soak my hands and feet in

warm water using a bowl for my hands and a pan for my feet. I don't like to paint my nails because the polish can chip so I just clean and clip my nails. I like to use cocoa butter lotion on my body. I love the chocolate-y smell.

Another way you can enjoy yourself at home is lounging around in your favorite pajamas or clothing. You can watch your favorite TV shows or listen to them.

When I treat and pamper myself at home, I know I am doing something special for myself. This is my self-care. Everybody should love and care for themselves because you are able to love and care for others if you love and care for yourself.

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# Forgiveness, the greatest gift to give

**MOHAMMED ALMUSTAPHA**  
Groundcover contributor

*"Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal or ideal."*  
— Earl Nightingale

I dedicate this article to all of mankind, to all humanity and to all living creatures on this beautiful planet, and those on other planets and galaxies we have yet to discover, including all plants, trees, their beautiful flowers and sweet-tasting fruits. I start this article by addressing all those humans who might have transgressed, hurt or pained me — you are forgiven. I no longer wish for you to carry the burden and remorse of past transgressions within your souls or mental faculties. I wish for you to find happiness, solitude and serenity in forgiveness, and I hope that you reach self-forgiveness so that your consciousness is cleared and rested.

I used to say that I forgive my transgressors and oppressors for the sake and happiness of GOD, hoping that in return when I reach the pearly gates, He might reward me by letting me enter His eternal paradise. But that is no longer the case. As I learn and develop as a human, I have come to realize that it is more important for

me to forgive others for their sake, to allow them to enjoy the glorious sweetness of life with no remorse or guilt on their consciousness, as it can be a burden upon one's soul, heart, and being.

As I develop and grow, I have noticed that I am leaning more and more towards treating people as how I would like to be treated. For all our uniqueness and individuality, we are still bonded by the same common feelings of happiness, hunger, pain, love and laughter.

As I continue down the path of this awkward journey we call life, which never ceases to amaze me both in negative and positive ways, I realize that it is my purpose to be a cycle breaker of hate, revenge and negativity. I only wish that we could all live happily, and while that is an unattainable goal, I shall dedicate my life not to accomplishing it, but to working on accomplishing it, hoping in turn that my attitude and behavior shall positively affect and motivate others to do the same along the way.

By forgiving each other, we allow ourselves to be unburdened by a multitude of negative feelings, which in turn will enable us to be happy and be able to enjoy life. I realize that life is too short to be spent in mental agony

and emotional distress. By forgiving, we open the doors to mental and emotional creativity, which in turn will increase the collective happiness of humanity.

For a human like me who has endured so much pain and suffering, it is only through the power of forgiveness that I am able to proceed forward in life in happiness and joy. While I do have my days and moments of regression, I still hold steadfast to the fact that I am happy in forgiving but not forgetting the lessons. It is wise to practice forgiveness not with naivety but with a degree of understanding.

The world is full of evil and treachery since mankind arose. If we continue to be vengeful and revengeful, we only perpetuate the cycle of hate and tyranny. Therefore, my friend, I take the initiative to forgive, to free my fellow humans from the agonizing chains and mental prison of remorse. By forgiving, we plant, cultivate and nurture the seeds of happiness, joy, freedom and peace. We humans are complex creatures, possessing and capable of executing an awesome potential for goodness and love. The greatest gift we can give is the gift of forgiveness, and in return, we receive the gift of that beautiful, honest, deep heartfelt smile of our transgressors as

the burden of remorse and guilt is lifted from their souls.

It is therefore, my dear reader, that I humbly implore you to open your heart to forgiveness and enjoy its sweet taste. Let us all strive for love, kindness, joy, happiness, friendship and peace. To all those who have harmed and wronged me, I forgive you and wish you happiness. I swear by the beauty of the sky that I harbor no hard feelings. I promise you that when I see you, I will smile in your face, and if you let me, I will hug you, too. And if you are ever short of money for food or medicine, please call me.

I only yearn for the sweet smile upon your faces when you realize that you are no longer bound by the guilt or remorse of your transgressions upon me. And to all those beautiful souls whom I have wronged, I ask that you set me free from the burden of guilt and remorse so that I may continue to grow and develop. I love you all. Get awesome and stay awesome. God is good; oh boy, God is good. Remember to forgive not for the sake of God, for He is not in need of us, but for the sake of your fellow man and his relief from pain.

Thank you for reading my humble words.

# Eras of the Robert J. Delonis Center

**L. CARLISLE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 56

You must understand that this has been submitted as a true testament. It is in no way trying to bring harm or facilitate ill will. These words' only purpose is to take a sincere look at how we see and perceive.

I have experienced and continue to experience both physical abuses and systemic abuses, because this system does not, has not and probably most likely never will acknowledge this, these and those that have failed me.

Most people who don't know me believe what is said about me and forced on me. You have no idea what it has taken to remain as I am. I could have chosen a life of crime, as some people who work in the community mental health profession make it seem on paper, but I have done positive work that those agencies are supposed to promote.

I sit back at times and it amazes me how people who are not bankrupt are bankrupt of their ethics because they do not practice fully understanding

people as whole. Without a firm foundation, not one thing can or will stand, not long anyways.

Any individual that allows themselves in their minds to broach any position or stance must also realize the work, ethic and duty that it entails. You cannot, in other words, want to be in the position or pay grade of a CEO, but not want the responsibility; leadership is a very arduous position.

Enough of my views. I am honored to hear directly from this powerful, sturdy, rigid staff and volunteers on what the Delonis Center is to and for them. I myself never want to fathom the doors of the Delonis Center closing.

The Delonis Center changed my life in the greatest way. It saved my life from places where I was violated alone in my hometown. I care for everyone that is in the vicinity of the Delonis Center shelter. It provides a place for people to come out of the cold or rest or whatever may be at hand. It saved my life.

I first came to the Delonis Center a decade or so ago when Barry

Manlowitz was there. I got two jobs within two or three weeks, saved my money and I lived around four months at the Delonis Center. I obtained suitable affordable housing and maintained it for over five years until the place almost shut down. It was condemned about two to three years after I moved.

The Delonis Center is not the end of the road. It is a place to begin again or make a fresh start.

I don't understand how institutions such as shelters and hospitals put signs up encouraging people to report abuse, but do nothing when it's reported, especially when the abuse is done by police or staff. They then turn around and label the person reporting the abuse in an untrue way.

All can benefit from completing the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) peer counseling. I have completed the primary meetings. I have found throughout my many years, people tend to deny, debase or label someone who may be as equally groomed and accomplished as them, if not more.

I, in my journey, once worked directly with the public as part of the U.S. Census Bureau, and approached doors in order to acknowledge and educate my neighbors.

I have also experienced torture from individuals in positions of power. After I'd already blatantly described the tortures I've endured at the hands of some wicked police and perverse ambulance people who get a thrill out of tying you down as you scream to be freed, against my will they shoot me up with whatever to render me unconscious, while they take my clothes off without my permission. Then put me out under strong sedatives without a safe way to get home. Performing illegal search and seizure of my body and my personal possessions — this surely affirms systemic rape. Wrong!

We should base our services more on what the strengths of the client are, instead of what a basic provisional practice is. Mary was the last facilitator for the storage on the third floor of the

see VOICES next page ➡

# “It's got to be a community effort:” First Baptist looks for health and safety solutions with homeless guests

**LINDSAY CALKA**  
Publisher

On the morning of Tuesday, May 16, twelve people convened over breakfast and coffee to talk about some issues at First Baptist Church. Around the table were individuals experiencing homelessness, members of the First Baptist congregation, staff and community members who attended as housing advocates.

First Baptist is not only a fixture of the Daytime Warming Center and men's rotating shelter, but is widely known in the homeless community as a safe place to crash overnight. First Baptist and its neighbor, First United Methodist Church, are the only private, downtown properties where there is widespread permission for outside sleeping (on the lawns and porches of the church building). Additionally, these two are the only faith communities in Ann Arbor that offer this service to the homeless community.

The issue at hand was behavior and debris that threatened the health and safety of visitors to the church — guests, church members, staff, students and more. The problems First Baptist is attempting to tackle are all-too-often solved with criminalization of homelessness, increased police presence or the simple and quick removal of important community resources. The goal of the meeting was clearly stated by the church

administrator, Xan Morgan: “To keep this space working for everyone. We want to keep these [wifi, bathrooms, sleeping space] options open for everyone.”

So what agreements came out of the community conversation?

- First Baptist can be used as a bathroom anytime for a quick in-and-out
- 10 a.m.-12 p.m. people are welcome to come inside the fellowship hall to seek weather amnesty, charge phones and use the wifi
- 8 p.m.-8 a.m. should be respected as quiet time
- Be mindful not to leave anything that is a safety or health risk or to block doorway while asleep
- Tents and other outdoor sleeping gear are okay for sleeping use but must be packed and gone when individuals leave for the day
- First Baptist is committed to solving problems without police intervention

After these guidelines were established, a longer conversation on how to actually enforce them began.

An anonymous attendee experiencing homelessness who frequents the church expressed concern that the people who were causing most of the issues, and needed to understand the consequences of their actions, weren't even present to hear these new guidelines. He stated, “Nobody wants to listen. It's either listen or leave, and I always end up having to leave.”

Morgan responded, “We know signs don't work, peer accountability works better, but still, we all need to partner to do this. It's got to be a community effort.”

Zachary Milton, another attendee experiencing homelessness, suggested the simple framing of “use it, don't abuse it” when talking about these new guidelines with absentees. “Staying under the radar is in everyone's best interest. It keeps away attention from the cops and residents of apartments across the street.”

The breakfast ended with the commitment to meet again in one month to discuss improvement of the property's health and safety and progress on community accountability tactics. Reach out to office@fbca2.org to find the date and time of the next community conversation.

*Other options for weather amnesty, wifi, bathrooms and undisturbed sleeping space that can be accessed in other locations throughout the week:*

**Circling Back Peer Support Group:** *Mondays at Solidarity Hall (169 N Washington St.) 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesdays at Zion Lutheran Church (1501 W. Liberty St.) 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*

**Journey of Faith Church:** *(1900 Manchester Rd): Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m..*

**Hospitality House:** *(169 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti): Thursdays 4-7 p.m., Sundays 12-3 p.m.*

## ➡ VOICES from last page

Delonis Center when I was last there. I cannot identify the exact day or time. I know that she lied and called the Ann Arbor cops to come into the second floor cigarette smoking room after she did not address the tall 6'4" woman who got in my bed while I was asleep. I didn't talk to her while I was naked from the waist down in the nighttime women's warming center area. After that, the police that she called never served a trespass notice to me at the time, they just laid on me and tackled me for no reason and put me in handcuffs. They took my coat and all my

property, illegally and against my will. They forced me to let them stick me with needles, to take my blood against my will.

I did not call the crisis team and there was no cause for any action to subdue my person or any of my possessions. I have been the subject, object and victim of individuals acting against me under the “color of law” or “paper pushing” that go on unreported and ignored, as well as thwart any vigilance to investigate any of my truthful claims. Instead I am pounced upon with allegations without any weight. Absolute dominion, total dominance by overzealous entities, while others turn a

blind eye to my suffering.

I have been stripped of my humanity by the HVA ambulance employees as well as the University of Michigan Health Systems and affiliates of Washtenaw County Community Mental Health.

I am beset upon by those who were never there to keep me and other vulnerable clients safe. This is a travesty.

Now, in 2023, I see chaos at the Delonis Center, fraternization of staff and clients. I do not choose to go any further. I still hang on to a vision in mind of the Delonis Center how I know it can be restored.

# What's Happening at the Ann Arbor District Library

**Open 10am-8pm Daily**  
Hang out in any of our five locations across town, browsing books, magazines, newspapers, and more, or check out movies, CDs, art prints, musical instruments, and science tools—you name it! Study and meeting rooms, fast and free WiFi, and plenty of places to sit and hang out.

**Fifth Avenue Studios**  
To foster the creation of original audio content, AADL has launched Fifth Avenue Studios to support local podcasters, musicians, and audio creators in the Ann Arbor area. Want to launch a podcast? Record and release an album? Produce an audio drama? Visit [AADL.org/fifthavenuestudios](http://AADL.org/fifthavenuestudios) and pitch us your idea!

**Fastest WiFi in Town**  
Every AADL location has login-free wireless inside all buildings and parking lots, available 24 hours a day. No restrictions, no monitoring, and some of the fastest speeds in town!

## FEATURED EVENT



**June 10-11 • 11am-6pm  
Downtown Library**  
The Ann Arbor Comic Arts Festival is a two day celebration of a lifelong love of comics with workshops, art activities, and one-on-one encounters between comics readers and comics makers. This year's headliners include Gale Galligan, Nate Powell, Dan Santat, and Jen Wang. Learn more at [AADL.org/a2caf](http://AADL.org/a2caf)



## meet my pet pal: JEREMY & BABY GIRL

A column on why those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity have pets and why it is important to support that.



### How did you get your pet?

I have to plead the fifth on this one; long story short, I rescued her.

### Tell us a few things about Baby Girl.

She is a blue-nosed pitbull and weighs as much as two coyotes. Speaking of, she is a hunter! She kills raccoons, coyotes and squirrels. But I've never seen her fight anything. She really is a service animal at heart. She likes other animals but just gets excited when she sees them. Baby Girl is young — only 33 months. But I'm only going by the look of her teeth.

I've had so many dogs — ever since I was a kid. There's only been a few months of my whole life that I haven't had a pet. There is something special about Baby Girl — I would cry my eyes out if I ever lost her.

We've been through a lot of stuff together. We survived the winter sleeping outside; we kept each other warm. Mutual body heat! A dog in cold conditions can intentionally increase its body heat, by literally three or four degrees. One time I had to kick her off because we were creating a whole weather system inside the tent!

### What rewards do you get from having a pet?

I have had anxiety and depression for as long as I can remember. Having a pet fights those symptoms. Even when I'm alone, I'm not alone because I have Baby Girl. And it's mutual. She spent the first year of her life locked in a kennel. I think she has something similar to anxiety too, and we help each other out. Her emotions are very related to what the weather is doing. If it's

overcast and drizzly, I can tell she's depressed. When it's sunny, she jumps around doing figure eights. It's like night and day.

### What is challenging about having a pet while experiencing homelessness/poverty/ economic exploitation?

Here's a perfect example. I had to walk to Meijer to get some food (a couple miles one way). I have her trained to get in the cart. When I get to the store, I take off my coat, put it in the bottom of the cart, and put her in the cart.

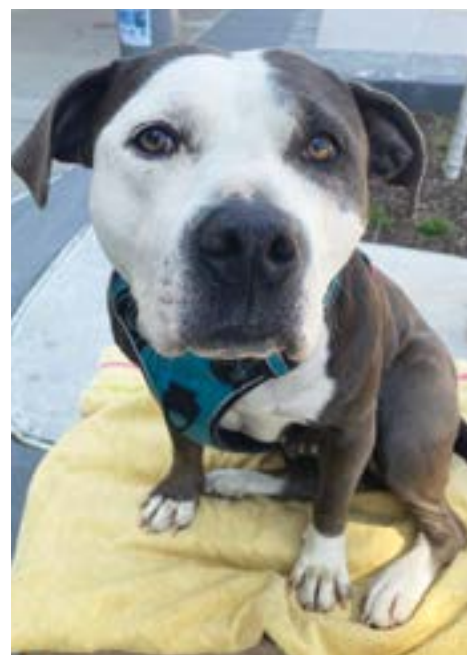
I was at the deli, and the deli clerk got in my grill and said the animals are not allowed in the cart. I told her I take Baby into every store in the cart. The clerk insisted that she could be in the store, but not in the cart. That didn't make sense to me, I wanted a real reason. I told her I was going to buy my meat somewhere else, and apologized to the other customers for taking up their time.

I've also had a few problems with Baby getting on the bus. They ask you, "Is this your pet?" And if you do not respond "She's a service animal!" they won't let you on. I feel I shouldn't have to say it at all. But I get questioned all the time.

In general, people tend to project human emotions onto animals. People have told me I shouldn't have Baby Girl. An animal has no idea that it's homeless. She had a quarter pound of beef jerky, just yesterday! That's why I play music for a living — I can take my dog to work with me.

### What is something our readers should know about Baby Girl if they see you both on the street?

She's friendly! You're always welcome to come say "Hi." She's my emotional service animal, but she can brighten anyone's day. I'm the guy with the hat and the dog. Come see us play music at State and North University!

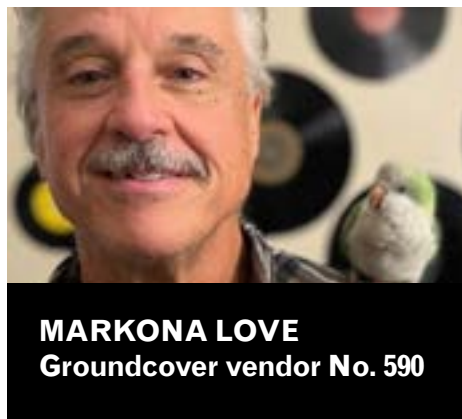


## Kona's right light

Earth Day is everyday for me. It was disgraceful that Allen & Odile Haber canceled 'Earth Day' because of the weather — how ironically absurd, but not the true reason or excuse. For any more info on that you would need to ask them.

When you're living in the elements, changes are evident in the direct effects on your living condition. As a homeless person, making a natural connection to the Earth is essential for survival. Wherever I might be camping, I am to be responsible for maintaining good stewardship of the Earth and its contained life that I'm treading on.

I share a great respect for the Earth



**MARKONA LOVE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 590

and all she does for us. Still, I load up on excessively packaged products, paper towels at the supermarket and straws at restaurants. So, I admittedly am a hypocrite, but I am aware and

reaching for perfection. I share this with many other Homeless. As I live in the elements, changes are evident in the direct effects on my living conditions.

To me, we are acting like "arrogant cosmic tourists" on this planet. Would you just throw trash on the floor of somebody else's house you're visiting? If I'm stationary, I'm looking for trash to pick up. I can't help myself. It's a habit I encourage. I don't look to judge someone else, I look to myself to do the right thing — there's the trash, there's the trash can. It feels irresponsible of me to not pick

see KONA page 10 ➡



Kona, Quaker parrot.

## Fired organizer reinstated May 15 — What's next for Huron Valley Coalition of Starbucks Workers United?

In the "Washington Post" article published March 29, "Sanders grills former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz in Senate hearing," it said, "Howard Schultz denies being involved in unlawful acts to discourage employees from unionizing at Senate committee meetings."

According to the article, Bernie Sanders kept the pressure throughout the hearing. It was an exchange of accusation and denial between Sanders and Schultz, respectively. Schultz, now former CEO of Starbucks Coffee Company — who stepped down because he was forced to testify or be subpoenaed — described Starbucks as a liberal, forward-thinking company. However, the National Labor Relations Board has issued 83 legal complaints against the company in response to 513 complaints of unfair labor practices. The article concluded with Sanders' ideas of the company's negative impact on Starbucks' employees to unionize.

Schultz and those in top positions at Starbucks don't want employees to unionize because they assume it will hurt their bottom line. Even though Schultz denies unlawful behavior and wrongdoing, the NLRB and many on the committee constantly accused Starbucks of illegal and intimidating practices.

Two of Starbucks' union members testified during the hearing on March 29. One was fired because he led a union drive in Atlanta, Ga. His testimony described their work conditions for the past 18 months and the conditions that led to the union drive in the first place.

Starbucks employees report similar unfair labor practices in the local district. Hannah Whitbeck and Victoria Provencio, employees of downtown Starbucks locations here in Ann Arbor, are both card-holding members of Starbucks Workers United, whose local nickname is "A2SBWU."

Whitbeck was fired in April 2022 for reasons she can only attribute to organizing her union drive. The firing was deemed illegal in a court case against Starbucks on October 8, 2022. Starbucks was ordered to reinstate Whitbeck with back-pay, but it took a second injunction on February 18, 2023 to move past Starbucks' appeal.

Whitbeck returned to Main and Liberty Starbucks on May 15 after more than a year of escalating pressure, long court hearings and Starbucks' red tape.

Although Provencio was never removed as an employee, she experienced a different kind of union-busting once the State and Liberty store certi-



**MIKE JONES**  
Groundcover vendor No. 113

fied their union in June 2022.

"Starbucks withheld benefits — relaxation of the uniform rules and wage raises — from the stores that had unionized; they acted like when we certified we immediately had a contract that was set in stone," Provencio explained. "Starbucks was court-ordered to give back-pay from that summer when they discriminated against unionized stores, but we still haven't received that money. It might take years to process."

Among all 298 unionized stories across the country, Starbucks has only had 85 bargaining talks with Workers United since October 2022. The talks have stalled over strong disagreements and technology controversy. In Ann Arbor, individual stores have only been able to get the company to meet them at the bargaining table once.

"There was one bargaining session in October of last year. From Starbucks' end, they were concerned about video recordings. They didn't want anyone joining on a video call because they were afraid of being recorded," said Provencio. "Starbucks lawyers walked out in less than a minute."

Nationwide, stores went on strike over this issue on "Red Cup Day," Starbucks' annual holiday launch of seasonal flavors such as Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, Chestnut Praline and Peppermint Mocha. This historically top-grossing day in late November 2022 never happened for Main and Liberty Starbucks because of the workers' strike; State and Liberty workers held a walk-out in the afternoon that same day.

During winter of this year, the workers struck again in an attempt to get Starbucks corporate to the bargaining table. They called this nationwide three-day strike "Double Down Day."

"Again, the manager acted like nothing happened. We got no response from the corporate. No retaliation, either though," recalled Provencio.

Now, approaching summer and the one year anniversary of union certification, I asked Provencio and Whitbeck,

"What's next for A2SBWU?"

"There have been lots of management changes, at both the store and corporate level. So far, the new CEO has worked in stores alongside baristas to see what's going on. It's a good first step. Right now, we're re-forming organizing committees to combat the high turnover of the store," said Provencio.

"I'm excited to be back at my store, and to actually get to sit at the bargaining table this time. We aren't asking for much. We want our rights acknowledged. When we start to negotiate, we expect them to bargain in good faith," added Whitbeck.

Just because A2SBWU has not been active online doesn't mean they aren't active on the shop floor. Provencio



Amanda, an employee at Main and Liberty Starbucks, pictured with organizer Matthew Kain during the Red Cup Day strike last November.

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# Is immigration worth the trip?



As an adopted naturalized citizen of the United States, I feel that immigration is well worth the trip no matter how you get to America. As a member of the Kaska Dena nation, my life for nine months back amongst my own people was both an adventure and a glimpse into the past of both modern and old ways. We had to chop our own wood, drink from wells and use an open air outhouse. All of our meat came from moose, Dall sheep, beaver, muskrat and grouse. Grouse are known as tree chickens because they rest in trees at night to get away from big predators. I was idealistic, headstrong and unrealistic to the real life of the bush. This new world was no walk in the park of Ann Arbor, Michigan. If anyone got hurt at any time, they had to be airlifted to the hospital in Whitehorse, Yukon territories; this is similar to the Life Flight here

in Ann Arbor at U-M hospital. Many native families in the north live in very isolated communities that unfortunately can lead to depression and other tragedies such as suicide. We forget how lucky we really are in the United States. It's all fun and games to watch The Life most northerners will never have or live. America is a dream that millions will never have. I forget I am one of the millions of privileged people to have found myself here. The truth is immigration is not the answer. What is the answer is creating a sustainable modern life within each tribe in the north through new technologies such as geothermal heating and solar power projects. This would create jobs and bring a bit of the United States to each person around the world. I feel like immigration is an idealized reality. The real problem is the poverty across the world. If we can innovate what we already have created to these isolated areas such as tribes in the north (Alaska, Canada) and tribes in South American countries, we can bring a more sustainable, much more balanced world for all people to be happy within their perspective tribes, cities, towns and nations.

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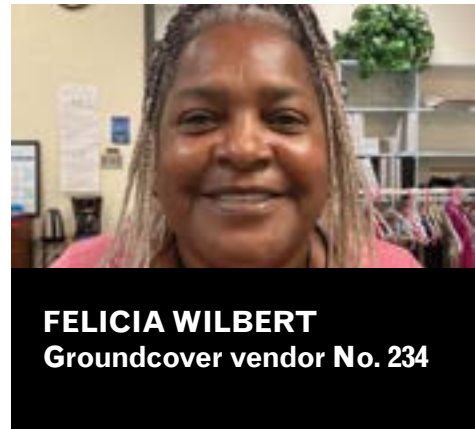
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# The town of Junken



It's 8 a.m., school is out, and May is bored and upset. There's nothing in this town to do! May was fed up with the town of Junken. Being a 13-year-old with no summer plans was hard to face. May looked around her small town and declared that things had to change. She was tired of all the trash and dirt. May could not remember ever seeing green grass or flowers in her town; trees did not grow either. Early the next morning she visited the library to research Junken's history, only to be disappointed by not finding any information concerning the lack of greenery. She decided to ask the elderly people of her town, visiting the only convalescent home, where her grandmother resided. "Hi Granny! I am glad to see you," said May. Granny Alpton replied saying, "What can I help you with today, my flower?" May smiled and asked her, "How come there are no flowers, grass or trees that grow?" Granny Alpton smiled and said, "My dear, people don't realize how important it is to keep the town clean. Mother Nature is upset with the people of Junken; they destroyed the natural process of nature. They polluted and littered the town with trash and abandoned autos. Oil spills in the water and plastic trash also. Don't you see the trash in the lake? It's killing all the fish and wildlife who depend on that water! If only they would change their ways before the last tree dies. If the last tree dies the town will forever be barren." May jumped up and thanked her granny, kissing her goodbye. She had to come up with a plan to save the last tree and grow the grass and plants back. May went home, excited, and explained to her mother and father about the last tree dying. She got her construction paper to design a flier inviting the whole town to clean and organize the town. May then designed a greenery plan for how to turn the soil and plant flowers and grass. She then organized a town meeting and refused to accept no from any adult. The event was to take place April 1-7, meeting at the water

fountain in downtown Junken. She explained to the town's folk how they killed the greenery and flowers. "Now it's only one tree left," she said. May pleaded with everyone to help remove the abandoned autos and trash from every street and house. Some people griped; however, everyone who could, participated. They were willing and wanted to see the town become Junken once again and not Junk-ville. Once the trash was removed she instructed everyone to plant grass and flower seeds, hoping they would grow. Two weeks passed. No flowers or grass grew and the tree was still dying. May cried with disappointment. How could this be? she wondered. She returned to her granny and told her what she had done, and how nothing grew. Her granny laughed and said, "You rushed out of here the last time you visited with me, not letting me explain to you what needs to be done." May was curious and impatient wanting to know the solution, asking, "What is it, Granny?" Granny Alpton said to her, "You must apologize to Mother Nature and keep the town clean!" "How do you do that? Apologize how?" "I need you to go into your parents' barn and find a green box. It's in the last cabinet. Once you find it, open the box. It has an old bird's nest in it, containing seeds that need to be planted at the edge of the forest. Once you plant the seeds you must say out loud, 'Please forgive us for we did not understand the importance of your plan. Will you continue with your plan? We shall keep our covenant with you and keep the town clean. Please restore your beauty in our town.'" May thanked her grandmother and ran to find the box in the barn. Once she located the box she rushed to the edge of the forest to plant the seeds. May recited what Granny told her to say. May cried herself to sleep, hoping the flowers, grass and trees would be restored. It rained so much in April that May wondered how anything could grow. On Sunday, the 1st of May, she awoke to the sun shining and birds chirping. She looked out the window and saw flowers, green grass and green trees. May screamed, thanking Mother Nature.

**Siren timer**  
Artist, published May 5, was FALSE.

# May horoscope



The height of a fever pitch rings as a daydream does — first, the foray into some unknown enterprise, then the delirium catches on into a bittersweet image of lands one will never traverse (except as imagination); finally, the catapult back into reality. It was a dream — or was it? You are stuck in the desert of the real, just as all of us are. Read on to understand how to best navigate this domain. **Capricorn (December 21 - January 20):** The time for understanding has reached an impasse: that is, you are either headed towards a period of rest and relaxation, or a period of hardship and toil. You must choose wisely here, and assess your situation for whether it is best to take a break or not. **Aquarius (January 20-February 18):** Longevity eludes you in any capacity in regards to taking on projects. This can be a blessing in some ways, but a curse in others. Old skills and relationships will come to bloom in this period, whereas new ones will be hindered due to a lack of focus. **Pisces (February 19-March 20):** Just as a flower comes to fruition in the spring, so too will your love for life come to a peak. Beauty, and comprehension through beauty, is your primary attribute at this moment. Spending this time in creative pursuits is likely your best bet. **Aries (March 21-April 19):** When the steam of anger finally passes, pause and take a breath. You have likely mis-evaluated the situation, and have not considered all sides of the story. If there isn't time to reconsider the situation, step away. This practice will yield great returns in the future. **Taurus (April 20-May 20):** You have likely come into some piece of good news, a new opportunity or have made a fruitful relationship in some capacity. Take advantage of this, but remember

to maintain a mindful and grounded approach. If you do too much or too little, then the opportunity will shrivel up and die. **Gemini (May 21-June 20):** Something seems to be pestering you, and although it has never been the most opportune moment to deal with it, nevertheless it has been draining. Now is the time to find a solution to this problem that plagues you. **Cancer (June 21-July 22):** Fluctuations in mood and temperament have made each rise feel like a gamble. Some days are exceptional, others awful, and some still mediocre. Instead of trying to force each day to be good, instead use each day as a lesson to understand your peculiar disposition. **Leo (July 23-August 22):** Strength is your primary attribute at this time. Whether it be physical prowess or mental resolve, you have the endurance and constitution now to take on demanding tasks. If you seize on this, it will yield good returns. **Virgo (August 23-September 22):** Someone is trying to tell you something that you've ignored for far too long. Either it is due to some personal failing (which can certainly be remedied through introspection), or due to a lack of attention directed towards them. In any case, now is the time to stop talking and start listening. **Libra (September 23-October 22):** A new era seems to be dawning, but many haven't wised up to this fact. Luckily, you can take advantage of this circumstance. Right now, you are very in touch with the natural and physical world. Be sure to use this to your advantage. **Scorpio (October 23-November 21):** Your physical health needs paying attention to. This is the case with everyone through all times, but it is especially the case for you now. Some sort of habit or routine in your daily life is hindering your capacity to flourish and grow. Fix this, and this time period will be much better. **Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):** Common wisdom that you have disregarded in the past would be of great help in the current moment. Speaking with relatives, old acquaintances and old friends can do much to revive this "common sense" that you have neglected for far too long.



# Origins of supremacism

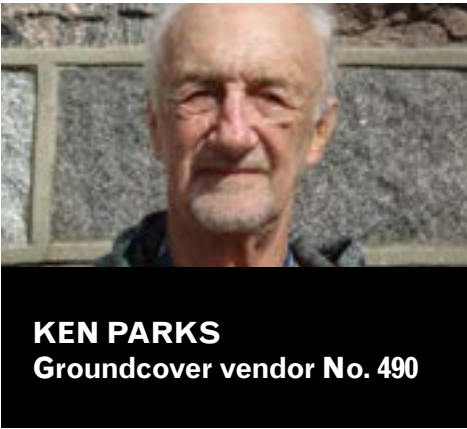
Supremacism is in our face often, usually in relation to white supremacism as a major feature of American history that runs into the current culture. Things change but may shape-shift to continue in disguise and survive changes in how we experience our experiment in democracy.

Not many will advocate for open racism but those few who do create hate groups and make it difficult to recognize more subtle but perhaps more dangerous forms of supremacism.

Those who achieve prosperity can easily become addicted to wealth as a marker of their superior ability to manipulate the material world. The ego formations that arise from success can easily evolve into a middle-class or petit-bourgeois social and cultural expression, as well as in racialized tendencies.

Ernest Becker wrote “The Denial of Death” to explore how divisions arise in our social evolution as the fearless ones rise and prosper. They become leaders who make decisions about the production and distribution of vital resources, including the spoils of war. Victors in battle become respected leaders in the community. Fearlessness and confidence are important qualities in any activity.

Small differences can grow into a sense of being special. Special



interest groups arise to exploit the resources of the earth and organize human labor to create wealth. Wealth and power are very addictive. Once experienced, it is hard to go back to what is viewed as lesser status. As Henry Kissinger commented, “Power is the greatest aphrodisiac!”

All ego formations build on the assumption of a separate self. The need to prove this separate, even eternal reality, becomes a full time job. It is an assumption that cannot be proven but is an article of faith among the ego-driven. Impermanence and interrelatedness constantly disrupt the illusion of a separate, eternal entity but the true believer becomes the egomaniac bent on proving the impossible. This can become a collective egomania as people grasp for anything that will give them an edge on survival and the right to thrive.

The invention of the white race fed this dynamic. It came after Bacon’s rebellion in the 17th century as white indentured servants united with free Africans and slaves to acquire land, unfortunately by driving Native Americans out of Virginia. The unity of freedmen and slaves led to the Virginia slave code of 1705 and special legal rights with the invention of the white race. Divide and conquer is a common strategy to stop expressions of solidarity.

My March 10, 2023 Groundcover article, “Does the system work?” pointed to “Salt of the Earth” as a movie that was the most excellent story of solidarity. The book portrayed the subversion of Hollywood to promote the Cold War after World War Two. Social engineering, using taxes in particular, is always at work to divide the commons to promote the middle class over the working class. “Sex, Race and Class” by Selma James is a good primer on how we are divided.

We experience reality constantly and have insights which we hope are the clues to success. Our clues often help us achieve levels of success we had hoped for. Appearances arise and we are likely to be elated or disappointed as we sail through the “stormy seas of birth, old age, sickness and death,” an expression that comes

from the Tibetan Buddhist dedication which concludes many meditation sessions. It encourages us to seek the Middle Path, which sails between the two extremes of nihilism and eternalism. Practicing a natural breath as our awareness arises promotes progress on this path. Finding a good spiritual friend who can point the way to genuine and complete awareness is a great event.

When the student is ready, the teacher will appear. Seek out the best mentors. We are blessed in this age of ignorance to have access to awareness, as humankind begins to accept that colonized body, speech and mind is the context for the inevitable pain of alienation from nature.

The cost of the environmental rift that Marx points out. Dualism — splitting reality into two parts, usually self and other — is the basic error of bourgeois culture. Our pain will grow as this error continues. The turn to peace and freedom continues in the long arc of history that Martin Luther King lived. We can choose the full and complete awakening that MLK, Thich Nhat Hanh and other spiritual heroes share with us.

Discover your interrelatedness and move forward. The Earth welcomes you in this mission.

➡ **KONA** from page 6

the litter up, walk five feet to put it in the trash can or, if necessary, put it in my pocket to throw away later. If as many people picked up a piece of trash as threw a piece of trash, there would practically be no litter. This can be difficult when homeless — camping though — often having to load and store accumulated garbage, then transport it all for proper disposal. This is very difficult for someone of limited means, especially if homeless.

When I was camping high in the mountains of Colorado, for example, I would be forced to go through extreme measures to load large amounts of garbage down to the town. I did consider the possibility of leaving garbage, because of the difficulty transporting it off the mountain. But if I left it there, I would never have been able to look Kona in the eye with any level of self respect.

Kona (a Quaker Parrot) was my dearest companion and Progressive Service Animal for my disabilities (autism and physical disabilities).

Kona had freedom of choice, making her own decisions naturally and free to fly inside or outside. From her free position she was able to support me and my disabilities in many ways, both physically and mentally. She was fiercely dedicated to preserving my well-being, and literally became part of my scientific/emotional way of processing. She flew freely and mostly had free will to make her own decisions naturally. From that position, she was able to support me in many ways, both physically and mentally. Anyway, this is a complicated process to be laid out in our (Markona and Kona’s) upcoming novel. Kona had a clear knowledge of most right/wrong situations. We both became very knowledgeable about health, how to attain it and keep healthy. Nature taught us a lot.

Kona would chastise me if I started eating processed food. She had eaten some before and knew by experience how sick those foods can make you. By learning how Kona digested, processed nutrients and her physical responses (every 15 minutes), I became increasingly aware of other

living beings’ appropriate needs. She was also very aware of what belonged in nature and knew that just about anything human-made does not belong in nature.

When garbage is left to nature, horrible injustices happen to the rightful residents of this Earth. I’ve heard responses that some garbage won’t hurt wildlife/nature — nothing unnatural belongs in nature, even plain paper without ink has been processed with chemicals. Fish and birds alike will eat plastic thinking it’s food, filling their guts with indigestible plastic and dying horrible deaths from starvation. Those are only a couple of the countless ways perfect living beings are destroyed by humans’ ignorance, selfishness and lack of compassion. If animals and plants survive the suffering, they will then pass those poisons or lack of nutrients to humans.

Humans tend to believe we are more special than the natural inhabitants of Earth. For starters; the elements needed for our existence came from Stardust from asteroids ... we came much later in the forming of

Earth’s natural living kingdom. We need the Earth, the Earth does not need us. We have become nothing more than a parasite, an invasive species. It is our ‘stinking thinking’ that got us here and our arrogance that keeps us thinking that as long as we are comfortable, everything else will just take care of itself. No it isn’t, it’s going to take care of us. We’re doing this to ourselves; Earth will come back just fine without us, and become a paradise again ... that we do not deserve.

Are we ever going to escape this slumber? Set your alarm to ‘Everyday - Earthday’ to WAKE UP! Take a deep breath and do something good for something living outside your comfort zone.

I dedicate this article to Kona, who instilled in me the great value of every living entity, and gave her life to share this message with us ... the value of all sentient beings.

All the Grace to Our Mother Earth.

Most Sincerely,  
Markona Love  
(with Kona Love)

### Sudoku

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4	1			9		6		8
			5	6				
3	9				1			
1	2			4	7			
7								9
			1	2			8	7
			3				7	5
					9	8		
8		9		5			1	3

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

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## Tees Off

by Tracy Bennett and Victor Fleming

### ACROSS

- 1 "Yes, \_\_\_\_" (polite affirmative)
- 5 Bit of baby talk
- 9 "\_\_\_\_ looking at you, kid" ("Casablanca" line)
- 14 Alan who played Hawkeye Pierce
- 15 Unspoiled paradise
- 16 Mushroom
- 17 Skirt hemmed at the calf
- 18 Mushroom in ramen
- 19 Puts on the line, say
- 20 Peals and tolls, e.g.?
- 22 Cover with gold
- 23 Burdensome
- 24 \_\_\_\_ room (play space)
- 25 Propel, as a shell
- 26 Non-grenadine part of a Queen Mary cocktail?
- 31 Guitar gizmo
- 34 Sports replay effect, for short
- 36 "Under the \_\_\_\_" (song from "The Little Mermaid")
- 37 Stimulating smell
- 39 Chopper
- 40 Prone to complaining
- 42 Speed Wagon maker
- 43 Beauregard or Natchitoches, in Louisiana
- 46 Alleviate
- 47 Farmer's strategy for hay storage?
- 49 2022 US and French Open winner
- 51 2023 Oscar winner Jamie \_\_\_\_
- 52 Marked, as with dirty fingers
- 56 High-quality coffee variety
- 58 One proposing a toast?
- 60 Some jeans
- 61 Be nomadic
- 62 Bring onto the payroll
- 63 Super silly
- 64 Worshipped celebrity
- 65 "Boola Boola" belters
- 66 Preppy pullovers
- 67 Ball brand
- 68 Lawyers' remuneration

### DOWN

- 1 Chia-cha's kin
- 2 Iconic Sigourney Weaver film of 1979
- 3 Befuddle
- 4 Where sorters may sort
- 5 Eats up
- 6 "Ciao!"
- 7 Judge
- 8 "No ifs, \_\_\_\_ ..."
- 9 Living "fence"
- 10 Fortify
- 11 Stir up, as sediment
- 12 Scraped (out)
- 13 Sib who's not a bro
- 21 Breathtaking reptile
- 24 Sleep phase
- 26 Trap on all sides
- 27 Providers of cheese and wool
- 28 Atlas section
- 29 Monocle, e.g.
- 30 "Mommie Dearest" star Dunaway
- 31 Atkins diet no-no
- 32 Domain
- 33 Accumulate, as resources
- 35 Spencer who co-hosts "Good Morning America"
- 38 Pacifics
- 41 Kitchen commander
- 44 Brewpub specialty
- 45 Whom Bill Murray played in 2009's "Zombieland"
- 48 Pacific weather phenomenon
- 50 "To Die For" director Van Sant
- 52 Appreciate, as fine food
- 53 Artful deception
- 54 Like some synchronistic experiences
- 55 Word with cocktail or dinner
- 56 Casino game
- 57 Shaped like a watermelon
- 58 Beam
- 59 Comstock \_\_\_\_ (1850s mining find)
- 60 Backtalk

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## LOGIC PUZZLES

JAN GOMBART  
GROUND COVER CONTRIBUTOR

- 1.A newspaper writer in 1930 noted that a man's age at death was one twenty-ninth of the year of his birth. How old was in in the year 1900?
- 2.Which natural numbers are sums of consecutive smaller natural numbers? For example, 30 = 9 + 10 + 11 and 31 = 15 + 16, but 8 has no such representation.

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**Sunday Worship Time**  
10:00 am In-person  
and via Live Stream and Radio Broadcast



# Rhubarb pie

**ELIZABETH BAUMAN**  
Groundcover contributor

## Ingredients:

Crust of choice  
3 cups rhubarb stalks cut in ½ inch pieces (do not use leaves)  
1 cup sugar  
½ teaspoon grated orange peel  
3 tablespoons flour  
Dash of salt  
2 teaspoons butter

## Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.  
Gently toss together everything except the butter.  
Prepare your favorite dough for a lattice pie. Fill with combined ingredients and dot with 2 teaspoons butter. Add lattice crust and flute the edges. Bake at 400 degrees for 45-50 minutes.



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+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

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**Saturday** 5 pm (English) & 7 pm (Spanish)  
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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

4	1	7	5	9	2	6	3	8
2	8	5	6	3	4	7	9	1
3	9	6	7	8	1	5	4	2
1	2	8	9	4	7	3	5	6
7	5	4	8	6	3	1	2	9
9	6	3	1	2	5	4	8	7
6	4	2	3	1	8	9	7	5
5	3	1	2	7	9	8	6	4
8	7	9	4	5	6	2	1	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	A	A	M	D	A	D	A	H	E	R	E	S
A	L	D	A	E	D	E	N	E	N	O	K	I
M	I	D	I	V	I	E	D	D	R	I	E	S
B	E	L	L	B	O	O	M	S	G	I	L	D
O	N	E	R	O	U	S	R	E	C	A	L	F
C	A	P	O	S	L	O	W	M	O	S	E	A
A	R	O	M	A	X	E	W	H	I	N	Y	
R	E	O	P	A	R	I	S	H	E	A	S	E
B	A	L	E	P	L	A	N	G	A			
L	E	E	S	M	U	D	G	E	D			
K	O	N	A	L	A	S	S	C	U	E	R	
L	E	V	I	S	R	O	V	E	H	I	R	E
I	N	A	N	E	I	D	O	L	E	L	I	S
P	O	L	O	S	N	E	R	F	F	E	E	S

Puzzle solutions:

44. He was born in 1856.
- Any number that is not a power of 2. Any odd number can be written as  $n + n + 1$ . And any multiple of an odd prime number works. For example,  $3n = n - 1 + n + n + 2$ , and  $5n = n - 2 + n - 1 + n + n + 1 + n + 2$ .